

Date: 29 November, 2023

To: Nunavut Research Institute

Subject: Permafrost Pathways progress update

Woodwell Climate Research Center applied for a research license from the Nunavut Research Institute in the spring of 2023. Our intention has been to implement two research sites in Nunavut, one in Pond Inlet and one in Resolute Bay, as part of a larger network of sites. Our original plans were to install research instrumentation near both of these communities in the summer of 2023.

However, during the process of applying for our research license and land use permits, we determined that the best use of our travel in 2023 was to present our proposed research to each community and solicit feedback and input from community members. By doing so, we delayed the installation of our equipment until summer of 2024.

In March, members of our group met with NRI, the Government of Nunavut, and the federal Government of Canada in Iqaluit, Nunavut. These meetings demonstrated to us the importance of working closely with the communities of Nunavut to develop our research and share our data.

We followed up these meetings by traveling to Pond Inlet and Resolute Bay in May, where we met with members of the Hunter and Trapper Organizations and Hamlets to discuss our plans. Additionally, we developed a working relationship with Ikaarvik in Pond Inlet. We contracted Ikaarvik to host a workshop to develop our community outreach plans.

We returned to Pond Inlet in July to take part in this Ikaarvik workshop. The youth from this organization gave us incredible insight into how we should structure our proposals to encourage participation from the community. The following week, we arranged a community meeting with other Canadian researchers in Resolute Bay. At this meeting, we further discussed our research plans and gained meaningful feedback from local residents and elders. Our goal is to ensure that members of both communities have the opportunity to actively participate in and are informed of our research plans.

In the summer of 2023, we secured our land use permits from the Government of Nunavut Department of Community and Government Services.

In 2024, we will return to Pond Inlet to formally present our proposal to both the Hamlet Council and the Hunter Trapper Organization for their approval. With that, we will feel comfortable moving forward with the deployment of our research instrumentation. We have made arrangements with the Polar Continental Shelf Project to support our research logistics between

the dates of 10 July and 20 August, 2024. During this period, we will deploy our research sensors, renewable power supplies, and temporary infrastructure (tripods and scaffolding).

We plan to collaborate with the communities of Pond Inlet and Resolute Bay during the deployment of our instruments and infrastructure in 2024. By doing so, the members of the community will have a thorough understanding of our research goals and data. One concern that emerged many times during our conversations in 2023 was that the residents of the communities often have little understanding of the research on their lands; this is often because researchers do not take the time to share. We do not want to make this mistake, and plan to be transparent with our activities on the land.

Sincerely,

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